

POWER YOUR BUSINESS WITH SOLAR ENERGY

Commercial Solar Checklist

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Reduce the amount of energy your building uses by increasing your building's energy efficiency. Signing up for an energy assessment visit is a free and easy way to identify energy-saving improvements. Many visits also include free energy-saving installations such as: LED light bulbs, a programmable thermostat, weather stripping, and may include a blower door test to measure for air leaks, an insulation inspection, a safety check on your heating system, and help with next steps.

Visit [xcelenergy.com/energyassessments](https://www.xcelenergy.com/energyassessments). Multi-family buildings visit [xcelenergy.com/MultiFamily](https://www.xcelenergy.com/MultiFamily).

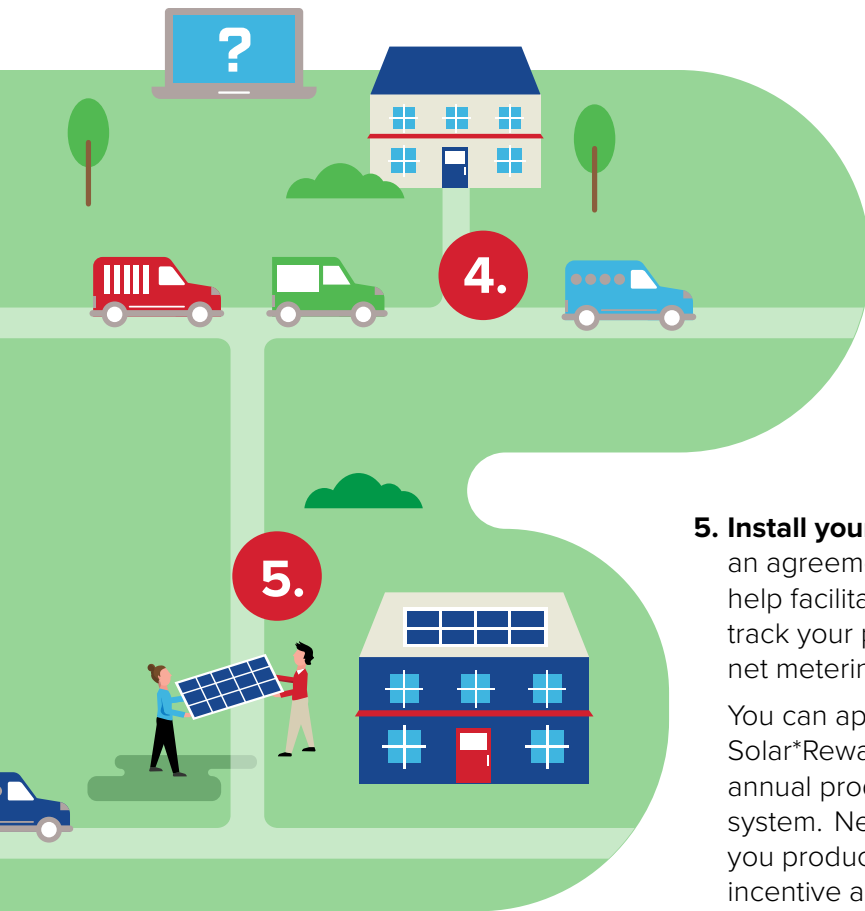


START PLANNING

- 1. Determine your building's solar potential:**
It's important to consider your building's solar potential before deciding if installing solar panels is right for you. You can get a sense of your solar potential by using the Minnesota Solar Suitability App. Visit mn.gov/SolarApp.
- 2. Talk to the City:** It's important to talk to the City about your project in case special permissions are required. Contact Planning and Zoning officials at [612-861-9760](tel:612-861-9760) or email com_dev@richfieldmn.gov.
- 3. Identify financing opportunities:**
Consider Minnesota PACE financing where commercial property owners are able to invest in energy efficiency projects and solar or renewable energy upgrades with no upfront costs. Visit minnpace.com.
Low-interest loans are available to help business owners add rooftop or ground mount solar at their building. Contact the Center for Energy and Environment [612-335-5884](tel:612-335-5884) or mncee.org/Loans.

Take advantage of the Renewable Energy Tax Credit

If your project qualifies, you may be able to claim a 30% credit on your federal tax return for systems installed in 2022–2032. Talk to a tax professional to confirm if your project qualifies and don't miss this opportunity!



SELECT YOUR CONTRACTOR AND INSTALL YOUR SYSTEM

4. Find a qualified contractor: Use Clean Energy Resource Teams' Solar Directory to search for qualified solar installers. Contacting more than one installer will help you compare bids and make the best choice.

Visit cleanenergyresourceteams.org/Directory.

5. Install your system! Once you select a contractor, you will sign an agreement and install your system. Your contractor should help facilitate the agreement with Xcel Energy to allow you to track your production and get paid for excess production with net metering.

You can apply to participate in either Xcel Energy's Solar*Rewards® or Net Metering programs. With Solar*Rewards, annual production incentives are paid to the owner of the solar system. Net Metering allows you to sell the excess energy you produce back to Xcel Energy, but there is no production incentive and you keep the Renewable Energy Credits.

KNOW THE ALTERNATIVES TO INSTALLING YOUR OWN SOLAR PANELS

If your building has low solar potential or the costs are too high to install your own system, you can still source some or all of your electricity from renewable sources. Learn more about these options at xcelenergy.com/Renewables.

- **Xcel Energy's Windsource®:** Windsource is a renewable energy subscription program that allows residential customers to source some or all of their electricity from wind energy. For an additional minimal monthly charge, the average Richfield business can get 100% of its electricity from renewable energy.¹
- **Community Solar Gardens:** Community solar gardens are great opportunity for to subscribe to renewable energy. You will receive a monthly bill credit based on how large your subscription amount is.

¹ One 100 kilowatt-hour block of renewable energy costs approximately an incremental \$1.

